

Printing Black and White Film Checklist

Check all your supplies

_A negative to print, a light tight room, running water, safe light (red light), 4 trays for chemicals, enlarger with a condenser head (and bulb), lens (to fit in the enlarger), paper easel (holds the paper in place under the enlarger), timer, grain enlarger, emulsion paper, chemical storage bottles, thermometer, measuring cylinder

Set it up

_Plug in your safe light. Set up the dark room somewhere that the door can stay shut, get your chemical trays, and set up the enlarger.

Chemicals

_Developer, stop bath, fixer, hypo clear. You will need 3 dishes and they must be labelled/have different colours to avoid contamination of the developer. A trace of fixer in developer can lead to inconsistent results. Use the times and dilutions stated on the products that you buy. The chemicals are usually liquid concentrates. You just pour out the required amount of each, add water and stir.

Load the negative

_You'll need to put the negative in emulsion side down. Your negative should appear backwards, and upside down. (But will look normal when projected)

Focus your picture

_Turn on the enlarger, and open the f-stop to the widest aperture (the light will be brightest). Pick up the grain enlarger. Find a bright white dot through the eye piece of the grain enlarger. Looking at the white dot, once you're all the way up to it, you'll be able to tell whether or not it is focused.

Test Strips

_ Take one sheet of paper, and cut into ~3cm strips. Set your timer to 30 seconds. Using a piece of something opaque, expose about a quarter cm every 5 seconds. Process the test strip as usual through developer and fixer (more on this later). Wash it off. Choose the best exposure.

Print the photo

_Set your f-stop to the smallest aperture (you'll get the best quality this way). Insert a full piece of paper into the easel. Set the timer to the time that you picked from your test strip. Turn on the timer and allow the paper to be exposed. Process the paper through the chemicals. Put paper in developer, agitate (rock the tray back and forth) for the required amount of time. Put paper in stop bath, agitate for the required amount of time. Put paper in fixer, agitate for the required amount of time. Rinse print in water. Put paper in hypo clear/water, agitate for the required amount of time. Rinse print for ~10 minutes to make sure all the chemicals are off the paper Squeegee the paper to get most of the water off. Dry your photograph.

You just did it!